

*[English]***Losses to SAIL**

2627. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that SAIL management has taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to effect recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL management has not taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation of Fund

2628. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds being spent lavishly by the Doordarshan in the name of celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independence of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the name of persons responsible for it;

(c) the budget fixed by for various Doordarshan centres for the production of programmes relating to the struggle for independence; and

(d) the period during which these programmes would be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of approximately Rs. 30 crore has been sanctioned for production of regional as well as national programmes relating to celebration of Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

(d) These programmes would be telecast for one year commencing from 14th August, 1997.

MTNL - Chennai and Calcutta

2629. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to add Calcutta and Chennai to the portfolio of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the staff unions of these circles have oppose the decision;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to appease the staff;

(e) whether there is a proposal to make the MTNL an independent corporation with greater autonomy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above

(e) and (f) The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is already a Public Sector Enterprise, incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956 with requisite autonomy.

*[Translation]***Model Railway Stations**

2630. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Five Railway Stations into model Railway Stations in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the facilities likely to be provided;

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Model station scheme which was introduced to develop some of the stations as Models to other stations during 1986 has since been discontinued in 1992. Provision of facilities for passengers at railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever warranted by traffic needs depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly various works have been taken up at Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Anandpur Sahib, Ludhiana, Beas, Firozpur Cantt., Rathinda and Jandial.

*[Translation]***I.R.E.P. in U.P**

2631. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Development Blocks included under IREP in Uttar Pradesh;